

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name Second Union School

other names/site number DHR File # 037-5051

**2. Location**

street & number 2787 Hadensville Fife Road

city or town Goochland vicinity N/A state Virginia code VA county Goochland code 075 Zip 23063

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

     entered in the National Register

     See continuation sheet.

     determined eligible for the National Register

     See continuation sheet.

     determined not eligible for the National Register

     removed from the National Register

     other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Second Union School  
Goochland County, Virginia

Part of Rosenwald Schools in Virginia Multiple Property Document

---

**5. Classification**

---

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- X\_\_ private  
\_\_\_ public-local  
\_\_\_ public-State  
\_\_\_ public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- X\_\_ building(s)  
\_\_\_ district  
\_\_\_ site  
\_\_\_ structure  
\_\_\_ object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing
1__	__0__ buildings
0__	__0__ sites
0__	__0__ structures
0__	__0__ objects
1__	__0__ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_0\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Rosenwald Schools in Virginia MPD ( DHR 012-5041)**

---

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: School  
Ethnic/Immigration

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Church storage Sub:

---

**7. Description**

---

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Other

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete pier  
roof hipped slate  
walls wood  
other

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Second Union School  
Goochland County, Virginia  
Part of Rosenwald Schools in Virginia Multiple Property Document

---

**8. Statement of Significance**

---

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- X\_\_\_ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- \_\_\_ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X\_\_\_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- \_\_\_ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- \_\_\_ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- \_\_\_ B removed from its original location.
- \_\_\_ C a birthplace or a grave.
- \_\_\_ D a cemetery.
- \_\_\_ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- \_\_\_ F a commemorative property.
- \_\_\_ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

---

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Education; Ethnic Heritage (African American); Architecture

**Period of Significance** circa 1917 – 1955

**Significant Dates** circa 1917, property purchase; and 1918, construction

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation** Black Freedmen

**Architect/Builder** unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

---

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file** (NPS)

- \_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- \_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register
- \_\_x\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- \_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark
- \_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Second Union School  
Goochland County, Virginia

Part of Rosenwald Schools in Virginia Multiple Property Document

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☒ University Rosenwald Archives, Fisk University  
☐ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 1.33 acres

**References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing		Zone Easting	Northing
1	17	759618	4183580	2	
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.					

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Phyllis Silber, Director

Organization: Goochland County Historical Society date June 15, 2005

street & number: 2875 River Road West telephone 804-556-3966

city or town Goochland state VA zip code 23063

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Second Union Baptist Church

street & number 2843 Hadensville Fife Road Rt. 606 telephone 804-457-2307

city or town Goochland state VA zip code 23063

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Second Union School  
Goochland County, Virginia  
Part of Rosenwald Schools in Virginia Multiple Property Document

Section 7 Page 1

---

**7. Summary Description:**

The Second Union School sits on the east side of Hadensville Fife Road, Rt. 606, adjacent to the Second Union Baptist Church in the western part of Goochland County, Virginia. Constructed in 1918, the building is a one-story, two-room, weather boarded school with a hipped slate roof set on a foundation of 18 concrete piers. A small projecting gable-roofed central section is placed on the front, or west side, of the building and separates a pair of single doors. The school was built using funds from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, while the Fund was in its early years and still based at Tuskegee Institute. The school was probably built using plans and specifications for a two-teacher school developed by the Fund and published in *The Rural Negro School and Its Relation to the Community*.

**Detailed Description**

The Second Union School is a one-story, two-room, two-teacher-plan school adjacent to the Second Union Baptist Church. A central projecting section on the façade (west side) of the one-story weather boarded building features a pedimented gable with tongue and groove siding and a semi-circular vent. The front of the projecting section has paired two-over-two double-hung sash windows. Each end of the building has large paired two-over-two double-hung sash windows. There are two groups of three large two-over-two double-hung sash windows in the rear or east side of the building. A brick interior chimney is centered on the rear wall. The main building measures 24 by 48 feet. The small, projecting section measures 5 x 12 feet. The school is in fair to good structural condition; the church replaced the roof and has kept the building in good repair. The school is entered through one of two doors set on either side of the projecting section on the facade. Each door is sheltered by a small hipped-roof porch supported by one square post and approached by a set of three brick steps.

The primary interior space at Second Union School is divided into two rooms. One door opens into the room originally used for the primary grades. The other door opens into the room used for the upper grades. At one time, wooden folding doors (no longer extant) separated the classrooms. All the floors, walls and windows are original to the building. All interior walls are covered with diagonal pine boards; the ceilings are covered with horizontal pine boards. The floor is pine and is in good condition; it has been covered by blocks of linoleum tiles. Original chalkboards are still intact in both rooms. One of the chalkboards was hung nearer to the floor in order to accommodate

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Second Union School  
Goochland County, Virginia  
Part of Rosenwald Schools in Virginia Multiple Property Document

Section 7 Page 2

---

the younger, primary, students. The interior was heated with a single wood-burning stove (no longer extant) which was ventilated through the central brick chimney which has been boxed in on the interior.

The building stands much as it did in 1918 with no heat and no plumbing. Electricity was added to the school in the 1930s. The original light fixtures are still in place. The two outhouses, or privies, one for girls and one for boys, which stood to the south of the building, have been demolished. The building is currently being used as storage for the church. Plans to expand the church's parking lot originally called for the demolition of the building, but church members, recognizing the significance of the school building and its association with early education for African Americans in Virginia now wish to preserve it.

Second Union School exhibits many of the typical features of Rosenwald school design. Because mandatory construction standards had to be met to receive Rosenwald funding, building plans were published as early as 1915 in *The Rural Negro School and Its Relation to the Community*. Plans were provided for one-teacher, two-teacher and larger schools, as well as privies and teachers' homes. By 1920 the Rosenwald Fund was being administered from a new office in Nashville and new designs, created by Samuel L. Smith, were first published in book form as *Community School Plans* in 1924. Since the Second Union School dates to 1918, it was probably developed in conformance with earlier designs developed by Tuskegee Institute.

Plans for Rosenwald schools generally feature minimal Craftsman detailing including overhanging eaves, exposed brackets, hipped or gable roofs with interior chimneys and bands of double-hung sash windows to provide maximum light. On the interior, the plans called for classrooms with small cloakrooms and an industrial room. The plans for two-teacher schools include a movable partition between classrooms so that the space could be used for a meeting room or auditorium. Second Union School retains many of the features commonly associated with Rosenwald plans, including the modest wood frame construction, its east-west orientation and the banks of large windows to provide maximum light to the classrooms.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Second Union School  
Goochland County, Virginia  
Part of Rosenwald Schools in Virginia Multiple Property Document**

**Section \_8 Page \_3**

---

**Summary Statement of Significance**

Education for the African American population was first provided on a separate and unequal basis in Virginia. The earliest schools after the Civil War were taught in old or inadequate buildings by black teachers. In the second decade of the twentieth century black children were assisted in their educational endeavors by the philanthropic efforts of a northern foundation. In 1917, Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears Roebuck and Company, established the Julius Rosenwald Fund as a way to improve education for African Americans. In Virginia 367 schools were assisted with Rosenwald funds. As many as ten Rosenwald schools were built in Goochland. Rosenwald was influenced by the work of Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee Institute and that institution directed the efforts of the Fund until 1920 when a separate office was established in Nashville. The Foundation provided matching funds and school building plans. Construction figures for the years 1917 – 1920 are combined as the Tuskegee records did not record school construction by year. Records from the Goochland County School Board and the Virginia State Department of Education list four schools that were built during the 1917 – 1920 budget year using Rosenwald funds: Chapel Hill School, Goochland School, Manakin School, and Second Union School. Built in 1918 under the Rosenwald plan, Second Union School is a well preserved example of the kinds of rural schools built regionally in the early twentieth century. It is the oldest surviving Rosenwald school building in Goochland County. Second Union school stands on its original site with no structural changes made to the building. Chapel Hill School and Manakin School have both been converted for use as houses, the latter with major changes to its structure. Goochland School has been converted to a utility building for Goochland County.

**Criteria Statement:**

As one of best preserved of the schools constructed in Goochland County using Rosenwald funds, the Second Union School meets Criterion A with significance in the areas of black ethnic heritage and education and meets Criterion C with architectural significance. The period of significance starts with the date the land was sold to the Byrd school district, 1917, and continues until the fifty-year cut-off date, 1955. Second Union School meets the criteria for registration set out in the Rosenwald Schools in Virginia Multiple Property Documentation form. It was built between 1917 and 1932 using funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. The school's design, floor plan, workmanship and materials are typical of Rosenwald schools and Second Union School retains a high degree of architectural integrity. The school remains in a rural setting.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Second Union School  
Goochland County, Virginia  
Part of Rosenwald Schools in Virginia Multiple Property Document**

**Section \_8 Page \_4**

---

**Historical Background**

Second Union School was built on land formerly owned by S. B. Massie and his brother Matthew Massie, inherited from their mother, Lucy Fleming. The Massie parcel contained 49 2/5 acres and was located near "Second Union Colored Baptist Church." On July 5, 1917, S. B. Massie sold a piece of his property to the Byrd school district "adjoining the land now owned by the said Byrd District ... on which is located Public School No. 6 (Second Union) ... containing two acres." It would appear that a school was in place at the time of this purchase. The school board records are sketchy as to the existence of a school on the site but it is speculated that in 1917, the school may have been held in the church.

The Second Union School was built in 1918 at a total cost of \$2,000. Of that total, the African-American contribution was \$150, the public contribution was \$1,800, and the Rosenwald Fund contribution was \$50. Terms of the Rosenwald Fund required that public and/or private funds be raised in an amount at least equal to the amount of the Fund's contribution.

Rosenwald funds assisted 367 schools in Virginia in 79 localities. Fifty percent of those constructed in Virginia were, like Second Union School, of the two-teacher type. In the south, 5,358 Rosenwald schools were constructed, improving classroom conditions for over 648,000 African-American students, and providing educational opportunities for generations. Rosenwald schools were often sites for pageants, exhibits, theatricals and other community activities and they often set the standard for the surrounding area with regard to architecture, sanitation and maintenance. Rosenwald schools in Virginia and the south are the tangible reminders of the Fund's initiatives for the advancement of African-American education during the first half of the twentieth century.

Second Union school played a major role in the Fife/Bula community during the time it served as a school and for a time thereafter. The school was used to educate children until 1959 when students were transferred to an integrated elementary school about a mile away. It was at this time that Goochland County sold the building to the trustees of Second Union Church for \$900 dollars. The Church had very little to do with the administration of the school except for the influence it brought to bear on the parents of children who were truant or not performing to the best of their ability.

School board records for black schools in Goochland County during the 1920s and 1930s are not available at this time, although efforts are under way to recover them. What is known about



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Second Union School  
Goochland County, Virginia  
Part of Rosenwald Schools in Virginia Multiple Property Document**

**Section \_8 Page \_5**

---

Second Union School is available in oral history accounts drawn from the strong memories of former students, some of whom still live in the community.

William Henson attended Second Union School in the 1940s. He remembers the school as having about 20 children in grades 1 through 3 and around 30 in grades 4 through 7. He vividly remembers certain teachers. Fannie Beale was his primary teacher and the principal of the school. Other teachers from that era included Marett Burnett, Mabel Washington, and Zippo Taylor. Julia

Giles Price remembers “the kids who arrived first at the school were responsible for making a fire so it was always warm when we got there. Those were some of the better years for me. We were not deprived-or we didn’t know it if we were. ...we have all grown, matured, and been successful. ”

Lois Henley, a public health nurse during the early 1950s, went every spring “with Dr. Blakey, an elderly doctor from the Pea Ridge area, to hold a preschool clinic at the school. The bus would bring the little preschoolers and their mothers or grandmothers to get immunized and examined by the doctor. Space was limited and we often used the front office or worked behind a screen. Everyone had a great day except for the little ones at ‘shot time’. The older students enjoyed the excitement.”

Calvin Hopkins, who attended Second Union when it closed in 1959, remembers loving school and how much the teachers seemed to care about the students. He does not have fond memories of the heating system, however. “If you sat too near the stove you were too warm and sitting too far away meant you stayed cold most of the morning.”

Second Union Church used the school for Sunday school and Bible school classes. When the church built a new Fellowship Hall, the school building became a place for storage. The Second Union Church community, the Goochland Historical Society, and Goochland County administrators are committed to restoring this building and creating a museum for Black History in Goochland with a particular emphasis on education.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Second Union School  
Goochland County, Virginia  
Part of Rosenwald Schools in Virginia Multiple Property Document**

**Section \_\_9, 10 Page \_6**

---

**Bibliographical Sources**

Green, Bryan Clark. Rosenwald Schools in Virginia. Multiple Property Listing for the National Register of Historic Places. 2004. Copy available at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA. VDHR File # 012-5041.

Green, Bryan Clark. St. Paul's School, Brunswick County, Virginia. Individual nomination for the National Register of Historic Places. 2004. Copy available at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA. VDHR File # 012-5010.

Worsham, J. Gibson. "An Architectural Survey of Goochland County, 2003." Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia, and survey form for Second Union School.

**Geographical Data:**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Second Union School is identified as tax parcel 17-1-95 on the tax parcel maps for Goochland County, Virginia.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated acreage includes the 1.33 acres that originally comprised the school property.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Second Union School  
Goochland County, Virginia  
Part of Rosenwald Schools in Virginia Multiple Property Document**

**Section Photo List Page 7**

---

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Property: Second Union School  
Location: Goochland County, Virginia, 037-5051  
Date of Photographs: August 2005  
Photographer: Phyllis Silber  
Negative Number: 22435  
Negatives Filed: Va. Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Photo 1 of 6  
View: West facade

Photo 2 of 6  
View: East side

Photo 3 of 6  
View: North end

Photo 4 of 6  
View: South end

Photo 5 of 6  
View: Interior

Photo 6 of 6  
View: Interior